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24 November 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Ad Hoc Working Group on Berlin (2d Meeting)

1. The ad hoc working group on Berlin (U.S. participants only) met at the Dept of State at 1115 on Saturday, 22 November 1958. Those present included among others:

Mr. Foy Kohler, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs
Mr. Martin Hillenbrand, Director, Office of German Affairs
Mr. Edward L. Frazer, Director, Office of Eastern European Affairs
Mr. Alfred Vickersman, Deputy Director, Office of German Affairs
Mr. Richard Service, OIC, USSR Affairs
Col. E. M. Harris, OIC/IEA
RADM. F. O'Dairne, Director, J-3, Joint Staff
Col. J. W. Totten, J-3 Div, Joint Staff
Col. John Damon, J-3 Div, Joint Staff

2. No statement of the USSR intentions with respect to the Berlin matter had been received since the meeting the day before, as had been expected. However, a summary of the talk between Chancellor Adenauer, Foreign Minister von Brentano and Russian Ambassador Smirnov was contained in Bonn Mabel 1080, dated 20 November 1958. Smirnov's statement was to effect that USSR plans to

3. It became apparent that State had changed its position with respect to the demand to be made to the USSR proposed at the first meeting of the working group. It now plans to seek

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T-17051/8
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Page 1 of 3 Pages

immediate tripartite agreement on the note with the object of presenting it to the Russians on Monday. Certain minor changes were made in the text and it is hoped that its presentation can be effected before the USSR takes a definite position. It is also planned to inform the SAC of the action.

4. The basis for the Allied position in Berlin was discussed and it was accepted that []

5. The need to study the []

] was discussed and it was felt this would be highly valuable.

6. Discussion reverted to the objectives of the USSR in undertaking the projected action. State Department seemed to feel that these were to:

(1) []

(2) []

It was further the State view that in Berlin []

this light, study of the possibility of a [] In
this threat seemed a necessity. The Defense representative did
not agree to these views.] to me;

7. Mr. Kohler expressed the need also for a plan to []

]
Mr. O'Beirne brought out that:

and a. The JCS are opposed to consideration of []

b. The ESC policy calls for []

Mr. Kahler pointed out that it was the responsibility of the group to develop pros and cons for consideration of courses of action and that any consideration of these problems need not involve recommendations.

9. Adm. O'Beirne was then asked to prepare studies on:

a. The [] concept.

b. []

Mr. Freers and the Eastern European Office are to study the approaches to be made to Moscow, including:

(a) Notification of the US intention to use force.

(b) Possible Four-Power meetings.

Mr. Hillenbrand and the German Affairs Office are to study:

a. The possibility of []

b. The pros and cons of []

10. It was arranged that the group would meet again at 1400 on 24 November 1958 to consider the above papers which might then develop as position papers for use with the French and British.

11. Adm. O'Beirne has arranged to prepare the two papers requested. These will be considered by the Operations Deputies at 1030 Monday.

E. M. Harris
Colonel, USA
European Region, ISA

Prepared by Col EMHarris/elm/24 Nov 58
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